to labour in the organised sector and to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector. The Commission is expected to submit its report shortly.

(c) and (d) The Central Trade Union Organisations have been generally opposing amendments in labour laws unless these are perceived as beneficial to the working class.

Satyam Committee Recommendations

2729. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had approved the recommendations of the Satyam Committee to review functioning of the ESI Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if some recommendations are not approved, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been taken to implement the approved recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The short term recommendations of the Satyam Committee such as enhancing the ceiling on medical care for Insured Persons to Rs. 600/-, issue of identity cards to insured persons, creation of posts in the medical scheme as per ESI norms, issue of common guidelines in respect of reference of cases to non-ESI institutions, enhancing of in-house capabilities to minimise referrals to other institutions, introduction of health record booklet for each beneficiary, preparation of list of formularies and rate contract, no specific reservation in favour of small scale industries sector for supply of medicines, quality control checks in purchase of medicines, penal action for supply of sub-standard drugs, purchase of medicines in strip packs, provision of medicines for supply by the hospitals or specialist clinics for a minimum period, streamlining the

purchase procedure with adequate delegation of powers, have been accepted.

The long term recommendations like parity in all respect with medical officers of ESI Scheme and their counterparts in the general health services, contractual arrangements for running ambulance services, cleaning, security, laundry, kitchen and maintenance of equipments etc. have been approved.

Recommendation such as grant of exemption in the event of both the employer and employee unanimously requesting for exemption, flow of funds from ESIC directly to the State Government ESI Scheme, privatisation of hospital management, and introduction of IMP system are at different stages of examination for implementation.

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has formulated Action Plans to modernize ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries during 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 and equipments worth Rs. 45.61 crore have been sanctioned under these Action Plans.

Revision of Provident Fund Pension Scheme

2730. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending to revise the Provident Fund Pension Scheme on the basis of basic wages of employees;

(b) whether the PF Pension Scheme would be revised to enhance the pension amount on the basis of hike in price index; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Ministry. However, the wage ceiling for coverage under the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 has been enhanced from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 6500/- per month with effect from 1.6.2001.

(b) and (c) Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 has a provision for